

# **IOWA BIRD LIFE**

**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**



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## IOWA BIRD LIFE

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*The Iowa Ornithologists' Union, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. Iowa Bird Life and IOU News are quarterly publications of the Union.*

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# The Grinnell Connection “Parker, Jones, and Kelsey”: Early Iowa Ornithologists

*Thomas H. Kent and Judy A. Putney*

Three early Iowa ornithologists had bird lists from Poweshiek County. Parker listed his specimens from the museum at Grinnell College that had not been included on the Allen (1868) list. Some years later Lynds Jones' list included birds from eastern Jasper and western Poweshiek counties. Carl Kelsey's list was similar in format to that of Jones' list, both of which included frequency, breeding, occurrence and migration. Jones included some dates and Kelsey did not. Although the tenure of Parker, Jones, and Kelsey at Grinnell College did overlap from 1888-1889 there is little evidence of their interaction. There are meeting minutes notes from the Agassiz Society of Grinnell on 25 October 1889 at which Jones and Kelsey were both in attendance (Anonymous 1889).

## **Henry W. Parker (1822-1903)**

Henry W. Parker was born in 1822 and died November 21, 1903. He graduated from Amherst College in 1843 and Amherst Theological Seminary in 1846. He was a pastor at various locations in New York and Massachusetts. In 1864 he moved to Grinnell as a professor of chemistry and natural science. In 1870, he became the first chaplain at Amherst College. He returned to Grinnell in 1879 and retired in 1889 due to poor eyesight.

Parker's ornithological contribution consisted of a list of 31 species not on Allen's list (1868). The specimens were housed in the cabinet (museum) of Iowa College (later Grinnell College) and were collected by Parker from 1864 to 1870. Parker had created and served as curator of the well-known natural history museums at Grinnell that were housed in the East College (razed by a fire in 1871) and Central College. In 1882, Central College was destroyed by a tornado and fire. Rebuilding began immediately and Central College was re-named Blair Hall. The central portion of Blair Hall housed the Parker Museum of Natural History named after Parker. Within two years after the construction of Blair Hall, the Parker Natural History Museum contained over 20,000 natural history specimens. Although Parker and Trippe both recorded the first Iowa records in 1869-1870, there is no evidence of communication between them (Kent and Putney 2014). Allen, Trippe, and Parker added many regular species to the growing Iowa list.

## **Lynds Jones (1865-1951)**

Lynds Jones grew up on a farm five miles northwest of Grinnell. Jones attended and taught at local schools before attending Grinnell College from 1888-1890. “At first he took a room in town, but soon gave that up and lived on the farm and usually walked the three and a half miles across lots to the college” (Taylor 1938). In September of 1890, he transferred to Oberlin College in Ohio, leaving Grinnell due to a lack of science classes. He received his AB from Oberlin in 1892 and became Assistant Professor of Geology and

Zoology. He rose to the rank of professor at Oberlin in 1922 having received a Ph.D. from the University of Chicago in 1905. In 1895, he taught the first course in ornithology ever offered at any American college or university.

Jones reported Baird's Sparrow in Iowa on 25 April 1885. Jones' report was not accepted by later records committee review even though one sparrow was shot (but wasn't described or corroborated by further sightings). The accepted record was 119 years later on June 4, 2004, when it was well documented. Jones also reported on the nesting of Bell's Vireo (Jones 1889), Grasshopper Sparrow (Jones 1889), Eastern Towhee (Jones 1889), and Horned Lark (Jones 1889).

In 1888, Lynds Jones established the Wilson Bulletin and was the first editor. He founded the Wilson Ornithological Club and later served as president from 1927-1929.

### **Carl Kelsey (1870-1953)**

Carl Kelsey was a student at Grinnell College from 1886 to 1890. Kelsey is known only for his annotated list of the birds of Poweshiek County, published the year after he graduated from Grinnell College, where he was a student with Lynds Jones. Kelsey listed 205 species by A.O.U. number with frequency, breeding status, and seasonal occurrence. Notable species on Kelsey's list included Brant, Whooping Crane, Sharp-tailed Grouse, Swallow-tailed Kite, Smith's Longspur, Chestnut-collared Longspur, and Alice's (Gray-cheeked) Thrush.

H.W. Parker was a professor at Grinnell during some of the time that Kelsey and Jones were students at Grinnell. Kelsey made a teaching career in Sociology in Pennsylvania after he left Grinnell, at which point we found no more ornithological contributions.

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# **T. Martin Trippe:**

## **An Early Iowa Ornithologist**

*Thomas H. Kent and Judy A. Putney*

T. Martin Trippe (1848-1924) was one of the first resident birders in Iowa. He was preceded by William Savage who began painting Iowa birds in 1855 (Kent 2000). Trippe's extensive journals are partially preserved (T. Martin Trippe Journals, American Philosophical Society). This paper deals with his biography before, during, and after Iowa and his bird records from Iowa. The information for this paper comes from his journal and published papers.

### **BEFORE IOWA**

Trippe was born in New York City and grew up in East Orange, New Jersey. In 1863 he began keeping his first ornithological journal. He was an avid bird watcher as a teenager and published several papers (Trippe 1867, 1868a, 1868b, 1869).

### **IOWA AND MINNESOTA**

After graduating with a degree in engineering in 1869 from New York University he became a surveyor for the Central Railroad of Iowa at Oskaloosa and New Sharon and later worked for other railroads. His journal included birding experiences in Iowa from 23 November 1869 to 26 December 1869, when he returned to New York for his father's funeral, and from 11 January 1870 to 18 April 1870 (Oskaloosa and New Sharon). Beginning in April 1870 he did similar survey work in central Minnesota until he was laid off in December 1870 and stayed in Minnesota until March 1871. He was back in Iowa from 2 March 1871 to 30 June 1871 (Albia, Hamilton and Marion counties, and Oskaloosa). His brother who had come for an unexpected visit and got sick had to be escorted home to New York by Trippe. He was back in Iowa from 23 August 1871 to 31 December 1871 (Oskaloosa and Garden Grove). On December 14, 1871 he made a note in his journal "see next Vol., Page 1". The next volume is missing in spite of an extensive search. He published lists of Minnesota birds (Trippe 1871) and Iowa birds (Trippe 1872).

### **AFTER IOWA**

His exact whereabouts are unknown in 1872 and 1873. He kept very complete notes (28 species) on the birds of Idaho Springs and vicinity ca 1872-1873 (Coues 1874, Rockwell 1909). At the Smithsonian Trippe's Colorado specimens include Black Swift and Townsend's Solitaire.

After 1873 there are numerous references to Trippe (now Thomas M.) in Colorado, where he became a mining engineer, surveyor, member of the legislature, and prominent citizen of Howardsville in southwestern Colorado. His office and house in Howardsville still exist. He never married but maintained a lavish lifestyle as indicated by a Christmas

dinner menu with many exotic species of game. He returned to New York annually in the winter.

#### BIRD RECORDS IN IOWA

Trippe's list (Trippe 1872) contains 162 species, some of which are verified to date and location in his journal. The others presumably are from the missing segment of his journal. Trippe is credited with 24 first date records (Kent and Putney 2014). Some of the more unusual finds include Rock Wren (Trippe 1873), Snowy Owl, Smith's Longspur, and Hooded Warbler. His dialogue is chatty and he expresses his positive and negative feelings on finding birds in Iowa.

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# Field Reports—Winter 2013–2014

*Francis L Moore*



*Francis L. Moore*

## WEATHER

This winter season had below normal temperatures along with below normal precipitation across the state. There were several snow events during the period with blizzard-like conditions over portions of central Iowa on January 16th and over northeast and east central areas on January 26th. Most of the precipitation events were snow related during all three months. In addition thunderstorms were common across the southeast one-half of the state with hail up to one inch in diameter on February 20th in Linn, Union, Warren and Wayne counties.

December began with mild weather as temperatures averaged above normal for the first four days of the month with Shenandoah reaching 62 degrees on the 2nd. However, cold weather was the rule for most of the month with temperatures averaging more than twenty

degrees below normal on the 7th, 9th, 23rd and 24th. Daytime high temperatures remained below zero in some areas on the 6th, 23rd, 29th and 31st. A strong cold front, with northwest winds gusting to 61 mph, barreled into northwest Iowa during the afternoon of the 28th with the temperature at Sioux City falling from 62 degrees at 3:07 P.M. to -3 degrees at 8:43 the next morning (a 65 degree drop in less than 18 hours). Precipitation was relatively frequent across the state but amounts were mostly light. Monthly totals were below normal at all reporting points varying from 0.06 inches at Logan to 1.29 inches at Clinton. The month's largest precipitation event came on 21-22 December with snow falling across the southeast two-thirds of Iowa. Greatest snow totals with this storm occurred in south central Iowa with nine inch totals at Blockton and Lamoni. Other notable events came on the 8th when snow fell statewide with a maximum total of 5.3 inches at Des Moines. Finally, a large winter storm just clipped the far southeast corner of Iowa on 13-14 December with seven inches of snow at Keokuk. Monthly snow totals varied from only 1.7 inches at Logan to 18.9 inches at Waterloo. The statewide average snowfall was 9.3 inches or one inch above normal. This ranks as the 33rd greatest December total among 127 years of records. This December also ranks as the 17th coolest and 30th driest among 141 years of records.

A very persistent weather pattern prevailed through the month of January bringing the coldest air frequently to northeast Iowa where temperatures averaged 6 to 10 degrees

below normal. Meanwhile occasional brief periods of strong southwesterly winds allowed quick warm-ups across the far west where temperatures averaged only 2 to 4 degrees below normal. The statewide average daily temperature was twenty or more degrees below normal on the 2nd, 5th, 6th, 23rd, 27th and 28th. Each of these cold episodes was accompanied by strong winds, resulting in wind chills falling to -34 degrees or lower. Precipitation was rather frequent during January, especially over northeast Iowa, but amounts were nearly always on the light side. Burlington reported the largest storm total with 5.0 inches of snow on 4-5 January. Monthly snow totals varied from 1.0 inches at Glenwood to 18.1 inches at Elkader. There was little if any snow cover over much of the southwest one-half of the state during January while the northeast one-quarter of the state has endured continuous snow cover since December 8, with a snow depth of 10 to 20 inches being common at month's end. Despite the lack of heavy snow, high winds combined with relatively light snowfall to produce blizzard conditions over portions of central Iowa on the 16th and over northeast and east central areas on the 26th.

The cold weather pattern that began in Iowa in mid-October continued through February. Temperatures averaged below normal on all but five days (13th and 17th-20th) of the month. Elkader reported the lowest temperature of the month with a -29 degree reading on the 11th. However, bitter cold prevailed even at the end of the month with a -20 degree temperature on the 28th at Cresco. Nevertheless, portions of western and southern Iowa enjoyed some brief respite from the cold at mid-month with readings climbing above 50 degrees in some areas on the 13th, 15th, 17th, 18th and 19th. The temperature at Sidney soared to 67 degrees on the afternoon of the 18th. The Spencer Airport recorded the lowest wind chill of the month at -42 degrees on the 10th. Precipitation was much more frequent during February than for the prior two months. The month's largest precipitation event came on the 20th with a wide variety of weather across Iowa. This event began with rain in most areas but transitioned to moderate to heavy snow over much of the northwest one-half of the state. Greatest snow totals were reported from Algona, Britt and Lake Mills with eight inches. Meanwhile unseasonably heavy rain fell across far southeast Iowa with Donnellson picking up 2.21 inches. Thunderstorms were common across the southeast one-half of the state with hail up to one inch in diameter reported in Linn, Union, Warren, and Wayne counties. Blizzard conditions were reported across north central Iowa on the evening of the 20th with wind gusts to 55 mph at Mason City. Snow totals varied from 6.9 inches at Hawarden in the northwest to 29.2 inches at Keosauqua in the southeast. The statewide average snowfall was 14.6 inches or 7.8 inches more than normal. This was the sixth snowiest February among 127 years of records and the state's snowiest calendar month since December 2009.

The three mid-winter months averaged 14.6 degrees or 7.5 degrees below normal while precipitation totaled 2.61 inches or 0.73 inches less than normal. This ranks as the 9th coldest and 42nd driest winter among 141 years of records. A colder winter was last recorded in 1978-1979 and a drier winter in 2005-2006.

## GENERAL TRENDS

The main ingredient for this winter season was cold, cold, cold, and more cold. It seemed like the winter would never end and as a result numbers and reports were well



below normal. Waterfowl numbers were fairly well reported in December but were low, or for some species absent, during January and February. Cold temperatures with sub zero readings were the norm this year and probably kept many birders indoors so that few reports were received. Diving duck numbers were down and really didn't pick up much at the end of the period. Northbound migration really didn't begin for most waterfowl in February as is normal; there were a few records of single or very small numbers beginning in mid-February but not the usual numbers.

American White Pelicans were found in fairly high numbers at Red Rock Reservoir early in the season and at the lock and dams along the Mississippi River during January. There were no reports of Turkey Vultures this year after several years with them arriving in Iowa in February. Bald Eagles were found in good numbers along the Mississippi River in January with lower numbers inland. Reports of *Accipiter's* were down during the season with below average numbers of Sharp-shinned Hawks and fewer than usual Cooper's Hawks. Rough-legged Hawks were in the state in good numbers and there were high numbers of Northern Shrikes found throughout the state as well.

Most gull reports were in December this year with fewer being found during January and February; they were also found in lower than usual numbers with a few rare individuals being reported. Snowy Owls were found in above-normal numbers this year along with good numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls. There were more reports of Merlin than usual, several Peregrine Falcons, and even a Gyrfalcon to make things interesting.

Fair numbers of Lapland Longspurs and Snow Buntings were found for those that braved the cold and drove the back roads around the state. Surprisingly there were good numbers of Yellow-rumped Warblers in the central and south central areas of the state during most of the period. There were good numbers of wintering sparrows throughout the period. Winter finch numbers were very low with only single reports of Red Crossbill, Common Redpoll, and Pine Siskin although Purple Finch numbers were above normal.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

It was a decent season for rarities and casual and accidental species reviewed and accepted by the Records Committee included Little Gull, Ross's Gull, Glaucous-winged Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, and Gyrfalcon.

## SPECIES DATA

ALL CAPS = Casual or Accidental. \* = documented, ph = photo. County names are in *italics*. Full names of contributors are at the end of the article. Abbreviations used: **ad** = adult, **CBC** = Christmas bird count, **imm** = immature, **juv** = juvenile, **L** = lake, **L&D** = lock and dam, **m.ob.** = many observers, **NWR** = national wildlife refuge, **P** = park, **RA** = recreation area, **Res** = reservoir, **R** = river, **SP** = state park, **SRA** = state recreation area, **WA** = wildlife area.

**Greater White-fronted Goose:** The largest number reported during the winter period was 106 on 21 Dec at Port Neal Ponds Woodbury (TJL). Only single indi-

viduals were reported during January and February with the last being 1 on 26 Feb at the Iowa R at Coralville Johnson (CRE). Large numbers migrating north were ei-

ther not encountered or were late in returning.

**Snow Goose:** Small numbers were found in all three months with a high number of 41 on 21 Dec at Port Neal Ponds Woodbury (TJL) with only 1 found 1-28 Feb at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

**Ross's Goose:** All reports: 1 on 4-9 Dec at Ada Hayden P Story (WO), 1 on 7 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (AB), and 1 on 19 Dec at Ottumwa Wapello (JF).

**Cackling Goose:** There were 12 reports during the period with the highest of 60 on 7 Dec at Cooper Creek L Polk (AB), 24 on 21 Dec at Port Neal Ponds Woodbury (TJL), and 52 on 26 Jan at Maffitt Res Dallas (JG). The last report for the period was 12 on 12 Feb again at Maffitt Res Dallas (RLC).

**Canada Goose:** Flocks of 1,000 to 15,000 were fairly common throughout the period at various locations around the state. The largest mid-winter concentrations were 15,000 on 21 Dec at Port Neal Ponds Woodbury (TJL), 15,000 on 28 Dec at Johnston gravel pits Polk (BE), 11,800 on 11 Jan at Johnston gravel pits Polk (AB), and 56,000 on 19 Feb at Blue L Monona (GLV).

**Mute Swan:** All 4 reports were of 1 individual from Beemer's Pond Hamilton 24 Dec-9 Feb (SJD, AB, TMH, RIA).

**Trumpeter Swan:** There were 42 Reports from 13 counties this year. Numbers at Beemer's Pond Hamilton through the winter: 239 on 24 Dec (SJD), 156 on 12 Jan (AB), and 175 on 29 Jan (TMH). High counts at other locations were 83 (highest) on 1 Dec-28 Feb at Maffitt Res Dallas (JG), 54 (highest) on 2 Jan-28 Feb below Saylorville dam Polk (DTh), 42 on 25 Jan at Maffitt Res Polk (AB), and 59 on 16 Feb at Saylorville Res Dam Polk (AB).

**Tundra Swan:** All: 1 on 1 Dec at W Okoboji L Dickson (LAS), 3 ad and 1 juv 24 Dec-9 Feb at Beemer's Pond Hamilton (SJD,



*Tundra and Trumpeter Swans, Beemer's Pond, Hamilton, 24 December 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

AB, RIA, TMH), and 1 on 23-29 Jan at Ada Hayden P Story (WO).

**Wood Duck:** Late migrants were 1 on 28 Dec Lyon (LAS). Spring migration began with 1 female on 16 Feb at Stolley P Clay (LAS) and 2 (male & female) on 23 Feb Marion (AMJ).

**Gadwall:** There were numerous reports throughout the period with a high of 22 on 2 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (RLC). Spring migration seemed to start with 1 on 11 Feb at Red Rock Res Marion (MHB) and 2 on 23 Feb at below Saylorville dam Polk (DCH).

**American Wigeon:** Small numbers were found in all three months with the highest being 11 on 27 Dec at Snyder's Bend Woodbury (GLV).

**American Black Duck:** All but one record was from east and central Iowa again this season. High numbers were 2 on 16 Feb below Saylorville dam Polk (AB) and 2 on 24 Feb at Neal Smith Trail-Sycamore Access Polk (RLC).

**Mallard:** The highest numbers re-

ported were 21,600 on 21 Dec at Port Neal Ponds *Woodbury* (TJL) and 7,500 on 15 Feb at Lost Island L *Palo Alto* (LAS). Other high numbers were 5,000 on 4 Jan at *Urbandale Polk* (BE), 5,610 on 26 Jan at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB), and 5,000 on 13 Feb at *Brown's L Woodbury* (GLV).

**Blue-winged Teal:** All: 1 juv male on 16 Dec at *Montrose Lee* (SJD).

**Northern Shoveler:** Highest numbers were 4 on 1-7 Dec at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO) and 2 females on 11 Jan-23 Feb at *Red Rock Res-below dam Marion* (JG, AB, RIA, JB).

**Northern Pintail:** All: 1 male on 1 Dec-28 Feb at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO) and 1 male Northern Pintail X Mallard hybrid on 25 Dec at *Johnston gravel pits Polk* (AB).

**Green-winged Teal:** All: 2 on 14 Dec on *Cedar River Linn* (KJM) and 2 on 21 Dec at *Port Neal Ponds Woodbury* (TJL).

**Canvasback:** All: 30 on 2 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (RLC), 2 on 4 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (RLC), 152 on 15 Dec on *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM), and 1 on 15 Feb at *Coralville Johnson* (WWH).

**Redhead:** No Dec records were submitted. Small numbers were reported during Jan and Feb with the most being 5 on 26 Feb on the *Iowa R* at *Coralville Johnson* (CRE).

**Ring-necked Duck:** All: 2 on 2 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (RLC), 14 on 15 Dec at *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM), 1 on 7 Feb at *Maffitt Res Dallas* (DTh), and 1 on 12 Feb at *Maffitt Res Dallas* (RLC).

**Greater Scaup:** All: 1 female on 1-4 Dec at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO), 2 on 1 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB), and 59 on 20 Jan at *Pool 19 Mississippi R Lee* (SJD).

**Lesser Scaup:** Nine reports. Highest counts: 20 on 2 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion*

(RLC) and 16 on 19 Dec at *Mississippi R* at *Clinton Clinton* (KJM).

**Surf Scoter:** All: 1 on 15 Dec at *Mississippi R Lee* (KJM) and 1 female on 16 Dec at *Mississippi R-Montrose Lee* (KJM).

**White-winged Scoter:** All: 1 on 15 Dec at *Mississippi R Scott* (\*JAW), 1 juv on 29 Dec at *Denison Crawford* (SJD), 1 on 15-19 Jan at *Mississippi R Des Moines* (JLF, MHB), and 1 ad male on 6-23 Feb at *Red Rock Res Marion* (RIA, JG, DTh, RLC, MHB, AB, AMJ, JB).

**Black Scoter:** All: 2 on 16 Dec at *Pool 19-Mississippi R Lee* (SJD).

**Long-tailed Duck:** All: 1 on 2 Dec at *Sand L Johnson* (JLF), 1-3 on 3-21 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (SJD, AB), 1 on 12-26 Dec on *W Canal Shore Dr, Mississippi R Scott* (JF), and 5 on 16 Dec at *Pool 19 Mississippi R Lee* (SJD).

**Bufflehead:** All: 4 on 2 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (RLC) and 6 on 15 Dec at *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM).

**Common Goldeneye:** High counts from Dec were 331 on 1 Dec at *W Okoboji L Dickinson* (LAS) and 600 on 7 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB). High counts for Jan were 50 on 12 Jan (BE) and 62 on 20 Jan (RLC) at *Johnston gravel pits Polk*. Returning migrants arrived with 22 on 7 Feb at *Maffitt Res Dallas* (DTh) and 16 on 12 Feb at *Maffitt Res Dallas* (RLC).

**Hooded Merganser:** High: 3 on 1 Dec at *Saylorville Polk* (RLC) and 3 on 5 Jan at *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM). There was only one northbound report of 1 on 17 Feb at *Neal Smith Trail-Sycamore Access Polk* (RLC).

**Common Merganser:** High counts: 1,600 on 7 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB) and 910 on 15 Dec at *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM). Only 14 other reports were recorded with none of them above 80 individuals.



*Gray Partridge, Hamilton, 22 February 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

**Red-breasted Merganser:** Reports were of 1 or 2 individuals in Dec and Jan (no reports from Feb).

**Ruddy Duck:** High: 5 on 2 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (RLC) and 5 on 20 Jan at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (RLC).

**Gray Partridge:** All: 6 on 15 Jan *Buchanan* (JF), 4 on 28 Jan *Buchanan* (JF), 10 on 4 Feb *Delaware* (JF), 12 on 6 Feb near *Monticello Jones* (JF), 5 on 14 Feb *Benton* (JF) and 3 on 26 Feb near *Conrad Grundy* (DTh).

**Ring-necked Pheasant:** Reported from 7 counties with the following high counts: 1-16 on 2 Dec-27 Feb at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO), 1-12 on 3 Dec-20 Feb at *Ames Story* (WO), and 89 on 26 Dec *Louisa* (KJM).

**Ruffed Grouse:** There were no reports of this uncommon resident.

**Wild Turkey:** High: 92 on 21 Dec in *Logan Cemetery, Sioux City Woodbury* (GLV), 72 on 10 Jan at *Camp Dodge Polk* (JG), and 70 on 6 Feb at *Stimes Woods Worth* (PH).

**Common Loon:** All: 2 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB).

#### **Pied-billed Grebe:**

All: 3 on 1 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (RLC), 1 on 1 Dec at *Ada Hayden P Story* (WO), 1 on 2 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (RLC), and 2 on 4 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (RLC).

**Horned Grebe:** All: 1 on 1-4 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (RLC), 1-2 on 2-7 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (RLC, AB), and 1 on 15 Jan at *Mississippi R Des Moines* (JLF).

**Red-necked Grebe:** 1 juv on 7 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** All: 1 on 1 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB) and 1 on 6 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (RLC).

**American White Pelican:** High: 200-335 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (RLC, AB), 50 on 3 Dec at *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM), 35 on 12 Jan at *Lock 16, Mississippi R Muscatine* (KJM), and 52 on 15 Jan at *Mississippi R, Keokuk Lee* (JLF).

**Great Blue Heron:** All: 5 on 17 Dec at *Mississippi R Clinton* (KJM), 1 on 20 Jan at Johnston gravel pits *Polk* (SJD), 3 on 25 Jan *Polk* (AB), 1 on 2 Feb at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB), and 1 on 17 Feb at *Neal Smith Trail-Sycamore Access Polk* (RLC).

**Bald Eagle:** High counts on the *Mississippi River*: 1,357 on 11 Jan on the *Mississippi R L&D 13 Clinton* (KJM), 943 on 12 Jan at *Mississippi R Scott* (KJM), and 1,023 on 13 Feb in *Mississippi R Louisa* (KJM). High counts away from the *Mississippi R* were 157 on 19 Jan at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB) and 116 on 25 Jan *Polk* (AB).

**Northern Harrier:** All: 3 on 19 Dec



*American White Pelican, Lock and Dam 19, Lee, 16 December 2013. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*



*Bald Eagle, Luther bridge, Boone, 5 February 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

*Clinton & Jackson* (KJM) and 1 on 13 Dec at Errington Marsh WMA *Polk* (RIA).

**Sharp-shinned Hawk:** There were 7 reports, all from the middle part of the state except 2 from *Muscatine*.

**Cooper's Hawk:** There were 24 reports for the period, mostly from the eastern and central part of the state with one report of 1 on 21 Dec in the city of Carroll *Carroll* (MT). All reports were of single individuals with 8 of them from Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO).

**Northern Goshawk:** None reported.

**Red-shouldered Hawk:** All: 1 ad on 3 Dec at Davenport *Scott* (KJM), 1 on 14-18 Dec at Billy Sunday Cemetery, Ames *Story* (LGD), 1 on 7 Jan at I-35 rest area *Story* (LGD), 1 on 11 Feb at Lamoni *Decatur* (JRL), and 1 ad on 12 Feb at Maffitt Res *Dallas* (RLC).

**Red-tailed Hawk:** There were a total of 7 dark morph or Harlan's individuals reported during the period. Highest counts were 27 on 19 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 12 on 2 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Rough-legged Hawk:** There were 22

reports totaling 56 individuals during the season. High counts: 13 on 15 Dec *Plymouth* (GLV) and 7 on 22 Feb at Waterman Prairie O'Brien (LAS). There were reports of 6 dark morphs in all three months.

**Golden Eagle:** All: 1 imm on 14 Dec at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC), 1 imm on 21 Dec at Port Neal Ponds *Woodbury* (TJL), 2 imm on 23 Dec *Allamakee* (KJM), 1 ad and 1 imm on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), 1 ad on 31 Jan *Polk* (JG), and 1 imm on 11 Feb at Stimes Woods *Worth* (RGO).

**American Coot:** All: 16-18 on 1-4 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (RLC), 32 on 2 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (RLC), 6 on 7 Dec at Ada Hayden P *Story* (WO), and 8 on 16 Dec at Mississippi R, Montrose *Lee* (KJM).

**Killdeer:** All: 4 on 14 Dec at Cedar R *Linn* (KJM).

**Wilson's Snipe:** All: 2 on 28 Dec at a drainage ditch *Lyon* (LAS), 1 on 2 Jan at Pine Lake SP spillway *Hardin* (MP), and 2 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** From 200 to 360 on 1-3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (AB, RLC,



*Cooper's Hawk, Grimes, Polk, 26 January 2014. Photograph by John Bissell, Grimes, IA.*



*Red-shouldered Hawk, Ames, Story, 18 December 2013. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*

SJD) with only 20 remaining on 7 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (AB).

**LITTLE GULL:** 1 juv continuing from fall on 1-3 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (\*SJD ph, MP).

**ROSS'S GULL:** 1 ad on 1-7 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (\*AB, ph, \*JB, \*TMH, MP, RLC, SJD).

**Franklin's Gull:** All: 1 on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res Polk (BE).

**Ring-billed Gull:** Only 6 reports with high counts of 900 on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res Polk (RLC), 4,000 on 7 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (AB), 353 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R Scott (KJM), and 354 on 22 Dec Muscatine (KJM). All reports were from December.

**Herring Gull:** High counts: 50 on 2 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (RLC), 87 on 17 Dec at Mississippi R Clinton (KJM), and 71 on 22 Dec at Mississippi R Muscatine (KJM).

**Thayer's Gull:** 1 juv on 1 Dec at Saylorville Res Polk (RLC), 1 ad on 1 Dec Polk (AB), 1 juv on 7-8 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (AB, JG), 1 on 12 Dec at L&D 14 Mississippi R Scott (JF), 1 on 19 Dec at Ottumwa Wapello (JF), 1 on 22 Dec Louisa (KJM), 1 on 13-20 Jan at L&D 15 Mississippi R Scott (JLF), and 1 on 15 Jan at Mississippi R at Keokuk Lee (JLF).

**GLAUCOUS-WINGED GULL:** 1 4th-cycle on 7 Dec at Centennial P on the Mississippi R, Davenport Scott (\*RD, \*TS, ph).

**Lesser Black-backed Gull:** All: 1 juv on 3 Dec at Des Moines Polk (SJD), at least 1 juv, 2 2nd-year, and 1 3rd-year on 7-8 Dec at Red Rock Res Marion (SJD, AB, JG), 4 (1 of each of the four age classes) on 16 Dec at L&D 19 Mississippi R Lee (SJD), 1 on 19 Dec at Ottumwa Wapello (JF), 1 on 22 Dec Louisa (KJM), 1 on 9 Jan at Missis-



*Golden Eagle, Woodbury, 21 December 2013. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Red-headed Woodpecker, Iowa City, Johnson, 5 February 2014. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

Mississippi R Keokuk *Lee* (JF), 1-2 on 13-20 Jan at L&D 15 Mississippi R *Scott* (JF, JLF), and 1 juv on 20 Jan at Mississippi Pool 19 *Lee* (SJD).

**Glaucous Gull:** All: 2 juv on 2-6 Dec at Saylorville Res *Polk* (SJD), 1 juv on 3-7 Dec at Des Moines *Polk* (SJD), 2 juv on 7-8 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD, AB, JG), 1 on 13-20 Dec at L&D 15 Mississippi R *Scott* (JLF, JF), and 1 on 15 Dec at Mississippi R Keokuk *Lee* (JLF).

**GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULL:** 1 1st basic on 17-27 Feb at Iowa River Power Dam, Iowa River, Coralville *Johnson* (\*CRE, \*BC).

**Eurasian Collared-Dove:** Highest numbers were 21 on 12 Dec at Solon *Johnson* (JLF), 39 on 25 Jan at Sergeant Bluff *Woodbury* (GLV), and 90 on 16 Feb at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (AB).

**Mourning Dove:** Five reports. High count: 230 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Eastern Screech-Owl:** Eight reports

for this common nocturnal species. High: 10 on 20 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

**Great Horned Owl:** There were 5 reports of this species during the reporting period with a total of 24 individuals of this common species. High was 13 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM).

**Snowy Owl:** There were 49 reports of which 33 were most likely distinct individuals. Following a single fall record reported too late to make the Field Report, the winter sightings began with a juv female photographed on 1 Dec 2013 near Ottosen *Humboldt* (\*JN, ph). A total of 14 individuals were found in December, 13 in January, and 6 in February. Only four reports came from the western third of Iowa. Of 18 birds aged, 13 were judged to be juvenile birds and 5 were thought to be adults.

**Barred Owl:** There were 5 reports of this common species during the period.

**Long-eared Owl:** All: 1 on 14 Dec *Linn* (KJM) and 3 on 23 Dec *Winneshiek* (KJM).



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Iowa City, Johnson, 6 December 2013. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Northern Flicker, Polk, 8 February 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*

**Short-eared Owl:** All: 1 on 23 Dec Iowa (JF), 2 on 25 Jan Benton (JF), 1 on 2 Feb Dallas (KG) and 4 on 3 Feb Benton (JF).

**Northern Saw-whet Owl:** All: 1 on 15 Dec at Saylorville Res Polk (RLC), 1 on 21 Dec-1 Feb at Johnston gravel pits Polk (SJD, AB, DTh, BE, JB, TMH, RIA) 1 on 21 Dec at Lime Creek Nature Center Cerro Gordo (RGo), 1 on 12 Jan at Deer Creek area Worth (RGo), 1 on 12 Jan at Red Rock Res Marion (JG), and 1 on 12 Jan at Grammer Grove WA Marshall (MP).

**Belted Kingfisher:** Only 5 reports were submitted with 9 individuals with the highest being 5 on 17 Dec Clayton (KJM).

**Red-headed Woodpecker:** There were 11 reports this winter. High: 26 on 18 Dec Clinton (KJM) with most reports being one or two individuals.

**Red-bellied Woodpecker:** Eleven reports with a high of 46 on 20 Dec Jackson (KJM).

**Yellow-bellied Sapsucker:** All: 1 juv and 1 ad on 9 Dec north of Iowa City Johnson (JLF), 4 on 16 Dec Lee (KJM), 1 on 8 Jan at Waterworks P Polk (JB), and 1 on 15 Jan in Burlington Des Moines (JLF).

**Downy Woodpecker:** Eight reports from around the state.

**Hairy Woodpecker:** Four reports from around the state.

**Northern Flicker:** Nine reports were submitted with a high of 23 on 20 Dec Jackson (KJM) and 1 of the red-shafted subspecies on 22 Feb at North River Road Clay (LAS).

**Pileated Woodpecker:** A total of 8 reports of 22 individuals, all from the eastern half of the state.

**American Kestrel:** About 40 reported





*Peregrine Falcon wearing satellite transmitter, Keokuk, Lee, 20 January 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.*

with high counts of 14 on 17 Dec *Clinton* (KJM) and 13 on 22 Dec *Muscatine* (KJM).

**Merlin:** A total of 23 were reported from 10 counties with 1-2 in Glendale Cemetery *Polk* this winter. Of those reporting subspecies 2 were *columbarius* and 4 were *richardsonii*.

**GYRFALCON:** One on 1 Jan 2 miles south of Joice *Worth* (\*PH).

**Peregrine Falcon:** All: 2 on 15 Dec *Scott* (KJM), 1 ad on 11 Jan *Clinton* (KJM), 1 on 13 Jan at Davenport *Scott* (JLF), 1 on 15 Jan at Burlington *Des Moines* (JLF), 1 ad on 20 Jan at L&D 19 Mississippi R *Lee* (SJD), and 1 on 22-28 Feb at Cedar Rapids *Linn* (CRE, BSc).

**Prairie Falcon:** All: 1 on 16 Jan along I-80 *Adair* (SJD).



*Tufted Titmouse, Iowa City, Johnson, 14 February 2014. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*

**Eastern Phoebe:** An unusual record was 1 on 20 Dec *Jackson* (\*KJM).

**Loggerhead Shrike:** All: 1 on 31 Dec *Union* (SJD).

**Northern Shrike:** There were 28 reports of 32 individuals this winter scattered over most of the state. The southernmost were 1 on 14 Dec at Rathbun Res *Appanoose* (RLC) and 1 on 15 Jan south of Fort Madison *Lee* (JLF).

**Black-billed Magpie:** All: 3 on 13 Jan (GLV) and 2 on 2 Feb (DTh) at Broken Kettle Grasslands *Plymouth*.

**Horned Lark:** High: 1,400 on 6 Feb *Boone* (DCH).

**Tree Swallow:** Late migrants included 7 on 1 Dec at Amana Road, Hawkeye WMA *Johnson* (JF) and 1 on 3 Dec at Red Rock Res *Marion* (SJD).

**Tufted Titmouse:** Four reports with a high of 56 on 16 Dec *Clayton* (KJM).

**Red-breasted Nuthatch:** Only 6 reports of this species from all areas of the state. High: 10 on 18 Dec at Mockridge Wildlife Preserve *Clinton* (KJM).

**Brown Creeper:** There were 7 reports



*Carolina Wren, Mahaska, 11 December 2013.  
Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Townsend's Solitaire, Big Creek SP, Polk, 24  
December 2013. Photograph by Paul O.  
Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*

with 52 individuals included. The highest numbers were 21 on 14 Dec *Linn* (KJM) and 25 on 18 Dec *Clinton* (KJM). The north and west most record was 1 on 22 Jan in *Sioux City Woodbury* (GLV).

**Carolina Wren:** There were 10 reports this season with a total of 36 individuals with 2 on 28 Dec at *Stone SP Woodbury* (GLV) north and west of the usual range. Most reports were of 1 or 2 individuals, most from the southern and eastern part of the state and the high count was 23 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM).

**Winter Wren:** All: 1 on 14 Dec-15 Jan at *Cascade Ravine Des Moines* (JLF), 1 on 21 Dec at *Sioux City Woodbury* (GLV), 3 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM), and 1 on 3 Feb at *Springbrook SP Guthrie* (KG, RIA).

**Golden-crowned Kinglet:** All: 13 on 18 Dec at *Mockridge Wildlife Preserve Clinton* (KJM) and 2 on 15 Jan at *Crapo P, Burlington Des Moines* (JLF).

**Ruby-crowned Kinglet:** All: 1 on 4 Dec at *Saylorville Res Polk* (RLC), 1 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM), and 1 on 20 Dec *Jackson* (\*DJA, KJM).

**Eastern Bluebird:** Higher numbers were reported this year with 19 reports and highest of 26 on 1 Dec at *Saylorville Res*

*Polk* (BE), 79 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM), and 81 on 2 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Townsend's Solitaire:** All: 1 on 7 Dec-25 Jan at *Big Creek SP Polk* (AB, JG, DTh, RLC, SJD).

**Hermit Thrush:** All: 1 on 7 Dec at *Red Rock Res Marion* (AB), 1 on 14 Dec at *Big Creek SP Polk* (AB), 1 on 14 Dec at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC), 2 on 15 Dec at *Amana Road, Hawkeye WMA Johnson* (MHB), 1 on 15 Dec at *Camp Dodge Polk* (AB), 7 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM), 1 on 21 Dec at *Sioux City Woodbury* (GLV), 5 on 23 Dec *Winneshiek* (KJM), 1 on 8 Jan at *Big Creek SP Polk* (RLC), and 1 on 8 Feb at *Medicine Creek WA Wayne* (AB).

**American Robin:** Numbers were good this winter with a high of 310 on 14 Dec at *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC). Fifteen other reports were entered for the period.

**Varied Thrush:** All: 1 on 15 Dec-28 Feb at a feeder in eastern *Boone* (Randy Anderson fide SJD).

**Cedar Waxwing:** Highest numbers were 172 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM) and 258 on 15 Feb at *Brown's L Woodbury* (GLV).



*Hermit Thrush, Hawkeye WA, Johnson, 15 December 2013. Photograph by Mark Brown, Iowa City, IA.*



*American Robin, Coralville, Johnson, 10 February 2014. Photograph by Linda Rudolph, Coralville, IA.*

**Lapland Longspur:** Highest numbers were 500 on 7 Feb at Brenton Feedlot *Dallas* (RLC), 417 on 5 Feb *Polk* (RLC), and 350 on 6 Feb *Boone* (DCH).

**Snow Bunting:** Largest flocks for the period were 225 on 9 Feb *Boone* (DCH) and 150 on 21 Jan *Mitchell* (PH).

**Yellow-rumped Warbler:** There were 17 reports including high counts of 77 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM), 35 on 23 Dec *Winneshiek* (KJM), and 27 on 20 Dec *Jackson* (KJM).

**Spotted Towhee:** All: 1 on 14 Dec *Rathbun Res Appanoose* (RLC), 1 on 21 Dec near the Des Moines airport *Polk* (SJD), and 1 on 21 Dec at *Gelita Gelatin Woodbury* (TJL).

**Eastern Towhee:** All: 1 on 15 Dec *Scott* (KJM).

**American Tree Sparrow:** High: 328 on 23 Dec *Winneshiek* (KJM) and 226 on 19 Jan at *Jester P Polk* (BE).

**Field Sparrow:** All: 3 on 26 Dec, 2 miles west of *Toolesboro Louisa* (RRB, BPR, details) and 1 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM).

**Savannah Sparrow:** All: 1 on 4 Jan northwest of *Boone Boone* (AB).

**Fox Sparrow:** Nine reports with a high of 11 on 3 Jan *Clayton* (KJM) and 5 on 4 Jan at *Sparks Cemetery area Boone* (LGD).

**Song Sparrow:** There were 11 reports, mostly from the central part of the state. Highest numbers this year: 30 on 15 Dec at *Camp Dodge Polk* (AB), 27 on 15 Dec *Scott* (KJM) and 41 on 21 Dec at *Gelita Gelatin Woodbury* (TJL).

**Lincoln's Sparrow:** All: 1 on 20 Dec *Jackson* (\*DJA, KJM).

**Swamp Sparrow:** High count: 7 on 15 Dec *Scott* (KJM) and 6 on 17 Dec *Scott* (KJM).

**White-throated Sparrow:** High count: 20 on 11 Dec at *Big Creek SP Polk* (RLC) and 43 on 16 Dec *Lee* (KJM). A total of 15 reports were entered.

**Harris's Sparrow:** Only 6 reports. Highest count: 86 on 21 Dec at *Gelita Gelatin Woodbury* (TJL) and 4 on 11 Dec at *Big Creek SP Polk* (RLC).



*Fox Sparrow, Boone, 2 January 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Western Meadowlark, Dallas, 7 February 2014. Photograph by Liam Gerety, Yale, IA.*

**White-crowned Sparrow:** Only 6 reports. Highest counts: 84 on 21 Dec at Gelita Gelatin Woodbury (TJL) and 9 on 20 Dec Jackson (KJM).

**Dark-eyed Junco:** Oregon race records this period included 1 on 18 Dec at Ada Hayden P Story (WO) and 1 on 15 Jan at Ames Story (WO).

**Red-winged Blackbird:** Highest counts were 4,000 on 19 Dec Clinton (KJM) and 550 on 11 Jan Marion (JG).

**Eastern Meadowlark:** None reported with vocalizations.

**Western Meadowlark:** All: 5 on 7 Dec-28 Feb began singing in Feb Dallas (KG) and 1 singing on 18 Dec east of Toronto Clinton (KJM, good details).

**Rusty Blackbird:** High count: 40 on 15 Dec (JB) and 82 on 16 Feb (AB) at Bren-ton Feedlot Dallas. From 1-8 were reported from five other counties.

**Brewer's Blackbird:** None reported.

**Common Grackle:** Only 1-6 were reported with a high of 6 on 10 Dec at Bab-cock, Hawkeye WMA Johnson (JLF) and 6 on 14 Dec Linn (KJM).

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** High count: 350 on 17 Dec Lee (KJM).

**Baltimore Oriole:** All: 1 juv on 7-9

Dec at Algona Kossuth (MCK) perished on the last day of its stay.

**House Finch:** Only 6 reports. High: 116 on 22 Dec Muscatine (KJM) and 119 on 4 Jan Clayton (KJM).

**Purple Finch:** Fifteen reports. High counts: 78 on 23 Dec Winneshiek (KJM) and 54 on 1 Jan Buchanan (KJM).

**Red Crossbill:** Only one report: 1 male on 18 Dec at Mockridge Wildlife Pre-serve Clinton (KJM).

**Common Redpoll:** Only one report: 1 on 23 Dec Winneshiek (KJM).

**Pine Siskin:** Only one report: 5 on 23 Dec Winneshiek (KJM).

**American Goldfinch:** High count: 114 on 19 Dec Clinton (KJM).

**Evening Grosbeak:** A report from 14 Dec 2012 (*Iowa Bird Life* 83:62) was mistakenly published without review by the Records Committee. The report was subsequently reviewed and not accepted. This could have been an Evening Grosbeak but details were not provided in a time frame that left no doubt about this record.

**Eurasian Tree Sparrow:** All: 56 on 16 Dec Lee (KJM), 127 on 22 Dec Muscatine (KJM), 1 on 1 Jan Buchanan (KJM), and 2 on 15 Feb at Buffalo Creek P Linn (JF).

## COMMENT

I really appreciate everyone going out and sending records from the field this season. It was good to see thorough details on the rarer species included in the documentations that were submitted. Please continue to provide these details for rarities and for common species on unusual dates. Without this information some species cannot be included in the report and an important record might be omitted; only the person actually seeing the bird can provide such details. Details can be a short physical description of the bird that would allow for separation from any similar species. For many species, this can be one short sentence. It doesn't take much to point out the relevant features to give some confidence that the bird was seen well and properly identified. Please take the time to make yourself aware when a bird is out of season and then take brief notes to include in your report. And please continue entering your records on the IOU website so that they can continue to be a part of our long-term database on Iowa's birds.

## CONTRIBUTORS

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Brandon Coswell	BC	Cedar Rapids	Kelly McKay	KJM	Hampton, IL
Raymond L. Cummins	RLC	Ankeny	Jacob Newton	JN	Ottosen
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*White-winged Scoter, below Red Rock dam, Marion, 12 February 2014. Photograph by Paul O. Roisen, Sioux City, IA.*



*Common and Red-breasted Mergansers, Polk, 26 January 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*



*Bald Eagle, Polk, 29 January 2014. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des Moines, IA.*



*Hairy Woodpecker, Iowa City, Johnson, 2 February 2014. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Northern Flicker, Iowa City, Johnson, 11 February 2014. Photograph by Jim Scheib, Iowa City, IA.*



*Horned Lark, Franklin, 4 January 2014. Photograph by Bruce McKee, Mason City, IA.*



*Cedar Waxwing, Boone, 15 February 2014.  
Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.*



*Lapland Longspur, Harrier M, Boone, 11  
February 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau,  
Boone, IA.*



*Carolina Wren, Johnson, 1 February 2014.  
Photograph by Rick Hollis, North Liberty, IA.*



*White-breasted Nuthatch, Polk, 17 December  
2013. Photograph by Richard S. Wacha, Des  
Moines, IA.*

# Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2013–2014

*Chris Caster*

A record fifty-three counts were held this season (Table 1, Figure 1). The Union Slough NWR count was new this year and the Marshalltown count returned after a short absence. The Dallas County count was the only one missing from last season.

This will be remembered as a tough winter. According to the state climatologist, the last time we had a December this cold was in 2000. Six counts reported high temperatures in the single digits. There was a brief warm spell for counts on the 28th, when highs rose to nearly 50 degrees, but temperatures fell below zero the next day. Snow was a factor on nearly all counts and twelve reported depths of at least 6 inches.

The species count this season was 137, which is our long-term average. The total birds (658,964), was a full third more than normal, which is surprising given the lack of open water. Also surprising were the high species totals of Keokuk (93), which had 7 inches of fresh snow, and Davenport (90). No other counts made it to eighty. Other high counts were Princeton, Muscatine, and Saylorville (79), Burlington (78), Clinton (76), and Ames (75). Decorah (61) led the northern counts, DeSoto NWR (73) led the Missouri River counts, and Red Rock (71) led the southern counts. The average count this year had 13 field observers, 6 field parties, and found 57 species.

## REGULAR SPECIES

Eighteen species were found in record numbers this season. Not surprisingly, waterfowl numbers were low. It was a great year for woodpeckers and frugivorous species. It was also good for sparrows and icterids. Frequently reported species are recorded in Table 2 while species found on three or fewer counts are recorded in Table 3. Recent changes by the American Ornithologists' Union now place the falcons after woodpeckers and longspurs after waxwings; these changes are reflected in the tables.

Canada Goose (160,513) numbers remained high despite the cold and even Cackling Geese (719) had a significant presence, although outside the northern third. Snow Geese (138) and Greater White-fronted Geese (140) were primarily along the Missouri River, although some birds were on counts in the Saylorville area. Only two Ross's Geese were reported from Sioux City. Trumpeter Swans (497) were in record numbers. Large numbers were at SE Webster County and Des Moines. Eight Tundra Swans were on three counts. Two were far from the Mississippi at SE Webster County. Single Mute Swans were at Clinton and Jamaica.

Mallards (69,992) were surprisingly plentiful, but only 33 American Black Ducks were found, less than half their average. All the other dabblers were found in low to average numbers. Common Goldeneyes (19,559) were in record numbers. Nearly ten thousand were at Davenport. Thousands were also at Keokuk and Princeton. Normally abundant Canvasback (5,480) were about a quarter of their usual number. Nearly all the Greater Scaup (198) were at Keokuk, but Spirit Lake and Union County had single birds. Com-



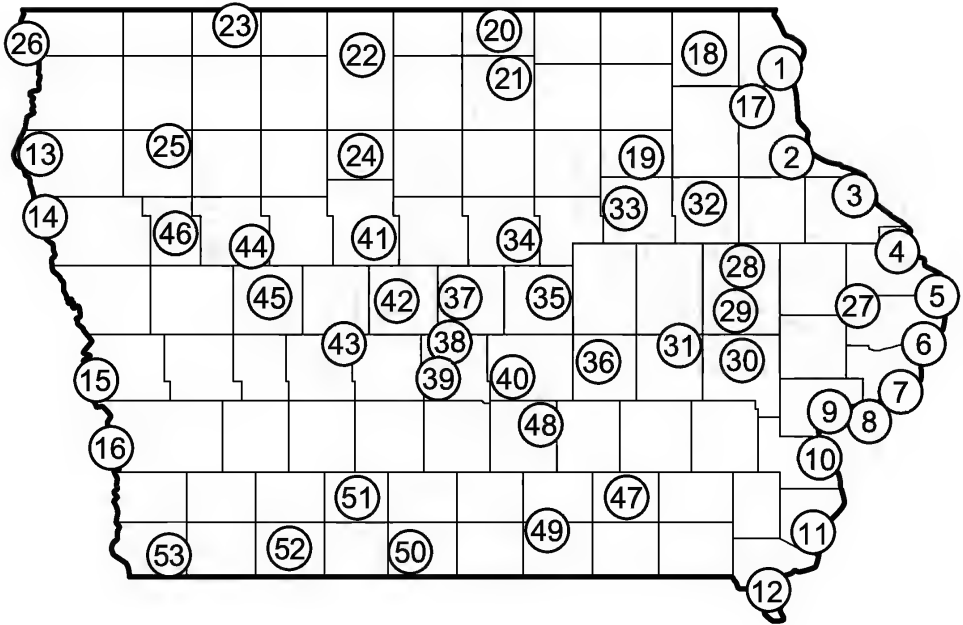


Figure 1. Christmas bird counts in Iowa, 2013–2014 (see Tables 2 and 3).

mon Mergansers (7,147) were in average numbers. A record ten Long-tailed Ducks were reported from three counts. Davenport had a White-winged Scoter. Keokuk had a Surf Scoter and two Black Scoters.

Northern Bobwhites (34) were on just four counts. Sixteen at Western Mercer County and ten at Lamoni were high counts. Gray Partridge (22) were only found on four counts; eight were at Mason City. Ring-necked Pheasant (566) numbers remained low. No Ruffed Grouse were reported for the second straight year, this after more than 25 years of having at least one on the count. Wild Turkeys (2,110) were found in average numbers and on all but six counts.

Pied-billed Grebes (3) were only on two counts. Double-crested Cormorants (8) were on only four. Amazingly, American White Pelicans (813) were not far off their record numbers from last season. Many were on the Mississippi, but Red Rock reported 498. Great Blue Herons (151) were also in good numbers.

Bald Eagles (6,147) eclipsed their previous record by a thousand birds and were on every count but one, Northern Harriers (106) and Sharp-shinned (87) and Cooper's (95) hawks were in good numbers. Single Northern Goshawks were at Yellow River Forest and Canton. Red-shouldered Hawks (13) have held steady for a decade. Red-tailed Hawks (1,692) were down somewhat, but Rough-legged Hawks (303) were double their average. Golden Eagles (10) were found on seven counts, with three at SE Clayton County. American Coots (216) were scattered with large numbers at Keokuk and Union County.

Killdeer (20) and Wilson's Snipes (19) were average. Ring-billed Gulls (2,013) had their lowest numbers since 2000-2001. Herring Gulls (1,219) seem to tolerate the cold

better as they had their best year in six. Thayer's Gulls (6) were found on three Mississippi counts. Five Lesser Black-backed Gulls were a record. Belted Kingfishers (138) were average.

Rock Pigeons (11,294), Eurasian Collared-Doves (712), and Mourning Doves (4,906) were in average numbers. Eastern Screech-Owls (135) were found in very good numbers. Fifteen were at Green Island and a dozen were at Keokuk. Great Horned Owls (234) and Barred Owls (188) were both found in high numbers. Long-eared Owls (33) were down a bit; twelve were at Green Island. Short-eared Owls (15) were on seven counts with seven birds at Lamoni. Northern Saw-whet Owls (12) were on eight counts; Canton had four and Mason City had two.

Red-headed Woodpeckers (620) were in record numbers and had their highest total in twenty years. Red-bellied Woodpeckers (2,768), Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers (73), and Downy (3,096), Hairy (891), and Pileated (137) woodpeckers were all found in greater than average numbers. American Kestrels (431) were down. Merlins (30) continue to as-found for the second straight year. They set a record last season with 32, when the previous high had been nineteen. Two Peregrine Falcons each were found at Davenport and Burlington.

Northern Shrikes (62) were in good numbers, but perhaps not as numerous as expected given the cold. Counts the last two seasons were higher. They were well distributed across the state, but seven at Westfield and six at DeSoto NWR were notable. Loggerhead Shrikes (2) were only reported from Shenandoah and Union County. Blue Jays (7,730) were found in record numbers. American Crows (59,367) had their highest count in six years. Horned Larks (10,273) had their highest count since 2000-2001.

Black-capped Chickadees (7,736) and Tufted Titmice (961) both had unusually high counts. Red-breasted Nuthatches (78) were half their average while White-breasted Nuthatches (3,292) were average. Brown Creepers (449) were in near-record numbers for the second straight year. Carolina Wrens (189) had a very good count despite being well below last year's record. Winter Wrens (25), however, had a poor showing after their record high last season. Golden-crowned Kinglets (122) had their best count in seven years. Single Ruby-crowned Kinglets on four Mississippi River counts were about average.

Eastern Bluebirds (1,699) and Hermit Thrushes (68) were in record numbers for the second straight year. American Robins (7,326) were also well above average. Gray Catbirds were at Burlington and Rathbun. Northern Mockingbirds (8) were at their average. Six Brown Thrashers was exceptional, with four at Jamaica. Last season Jamaica also reported three. European Starlings (57,947) were reported in average numbers; Davenport suffered the high count. Cedar Waxwings (7,097) and Yellow-rumped Warblers (352) were in record numbers. Lapland Longspurs (14,027) were in record numbers. Snow Buntings (2,762) followed suit with numbers more than three times their average.

For the second straight year, a whopping record sixteen Spotted Towhees were reported, six of them at DeSoto NWR. Seven Eastern Towhees were also exceptional. Totals for American Tree (16,776), Song (730), Lincoln's (10), White-throated (645), and Harris's (370) sparrows were above average. Fox (87) and White-crowned (311) sparrows were found in record numbers. Only Swamp Sparrows (107) were down. Single Savannah Sparrows were at Boone County and Lamoni. Field Sparrows (8) were on three counts. Dark-

eyed Juncos (27,618) were found in good numbers. Northern Cardinals (7,172) were at their average.

It was another very good count for icterids and Red-winged Blackbirds (59,603) posted their highest numbers in more than twenty years. Meadowlarks (476) were also plentiful. Rusty Blackbirds (272) had their best year in ten. Two Brewer's Blackbirds each were at Westfield and Rathbun. Common Grackles (9,181) set a new high count and for the second straight year broke what had been a twenty-year-old record. Brown-headed Cowbirds (999) were nearly average.

Purple Finches (687) and House Finches (3,177) both counted well. Common Redpolls (4) really disappointed after last season's unprecedented twelve hundred birds. The forty Pine Siskins were also disappointing, but American Goldfinch (5,077) numbers were good. House Sparrows (33,545) numbers were excellent. Eurasian Tree Sparrows (2,739) continue their steady expansion and set a new high count for the fourth straight year. Like last season they were found on all the Mississippi River counts north to Clinton and six Middle Third counts from Lost Nation northwest to Buchanan County and south to Amana. New this year was a single individual on the NW Clayton County count.

#### NOTABLE MISSES

This season's species total was about average, so several misses could be expected. As previously noted, for the second straight year no Ruffed Grouse was reported. Previously, it had not been missed in the counts going back to 1986-1987. Maybe more surprising was the omission of Glaucous Gull, which had only been missed in one other year dating back to 1986-1987. Other species missed included Black-billed Magpie (8 of last 10), Common Loon and White-winged Crossbill (7 of last 10), Bonaparte's Gull and Marsh Wren (6 of last 10), Sandhill Crane (5 of last 10), and Turkey Vulture and Great-tailed Grackle (4 of last 10).

#### UNCOMMON SPECIES

But even average counts produce some great birds. New to the count this season and most exciting was a Gyrfalcon at Worth County. A Blue-winged Teal was also at Keokuk, the second straight year for them. Two Snowy Owls were at Keokuk and another was at Spirit Lake, while Shenandoah reported a count week bird. Carroll County managed a Prairie Falcon. A record three Eastern Phoebes were reported with Green Island, Clinton, and Keokuk each finding one. This was only the fourth count in the last twenty that any had been found. A Townsend's Solitaire and a Vesper Sparrow were at Saylorville. A Chipping Sparrow was a count week bird at Decorah. Westfield missed on magpie, but a Yellow-headed Blackbird was nice consolation. The only Red Crossbill was at Lost Nation.

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Table 1. Site Data for 2013–2014 Christmas Bird Counts

Location	Date	Total		Field		Miles		Owling		Feeder		Temp		Snow		Wind
		Species	Birds	Obs	Pts	Hr	Car	Ft	Hr	Mi	Pt	L	H	Depth		
MISSISSIPPI RIVER																
1. Yellow River Forest	30-Dec	48	4,537	4	4	27.5	317	3	2	20	0	0	-19	3	10	SE 0-15
2. SE Clayton County	3-Jan	55	6,703	8	5	32	302	1.5	2.5	13	1	5	-21	13	11	N 0-10
3. Dubuque	28-Dec	51	4,997	22	8	56.75	298	16.6	1	1	2	2	22	44	6	S 5-10
4. Green Island	20-Dec	65	4,194	16	5	32	249	5.5	3.5	34	0	0	26	29	6	N 0-16
5. Clinton	19-Dec	76	14,887	16	5	45.75	344	4.75	4.5	38	1	1	26	35	3	NE 0-5
6. Princeton	17-Dec	79	16,385	11	5	43.25	438*	4	5.75	56	0	0	18	35	3	NW 10-30
7. Davenport	15-Dec	90	97,152	20	7	60	440	10.25	9.5	92	6	13	10	16	4	NW 10-20
8. Andalusia	5-Jan	66	5,254	8	4	31.5	262	3	4.25	52	0	0	-10	20	7	W 20-40
9. Muscatine	22-Dec	79	13,737	11	6	48.25	401	9.5	3	26	8	8	11	29	5	N 10-20
10. West Mercer County	26-Dec	71	7,645	11	5	38.75	357	3.75	8.5	82	0	0	15	36	3	SW 0-10
11. Burlington	14-Dec	78	10,042	15	6	50	282	34	1	8	3	20	25	29	4	N 10-15
12. Keokuk	16-Dec	93	47,707	8	4	30	21	9	3	7	0	0	14	26	7	ENE 4-12
MISSOURI RIVER																
13. Westfield	14-Dec	49	3,483	13	7	44	457	5	2	2	3	18	14	19	4	NW 3-8
14. Sioux City	21-Dec	66	50,191	15	9	60	574	11.8	2	5.5	5	6	10	26	0	NE 0-20
15. De Soto NWR	15-Dec	73	33,199	25	13	78.75	421.5	37.2	1.25	13	1	0.75	17	28	3	N 5-15
16. Omaha	21-Dec	69	19,382	33	13	74.95	474.6	34.15	3.25	0	3	2	20	23	4	NW 0-5
NORTHERN THIRD																
17. NW Clayton County	2-Jan	56	3,885	4	3	21.5	145	1	1.5	8	2	8	-9	9	9	NW 0-10
18. Decorah	23-Dec	61	7,539	11	5	29.25	256	3	1.25	10	7	8.5	-8	-1	3	NW 10-20
19. Bremer County	15-Dec	50	9,700	8	5	33	401	14	0	0	0	0	7	11	6	NW 10-15
20. Worth County	1-Jan	34	2,648	6	3	23	231	5.5	0	0	0	0	-7	1	6	SE 5-10
21. Mason City	21-Dec	50	13,660	11	8	60.5	482	13	0.1	0.1	7	12.15	16	23	1	E 8-10
22. Union Slough NWR	3-Jan	32	4,859	21	10	38.75	424	7	1.75	9	1	4	-21	20	9	SSW 2-41
23. Spirit Lake	14-Dec	55	8,079	11	4	27	374	6.5	0.25	1	12	7	8	13	2	NNW 10-15
24. Humboldt County	29-Dec	33	3,683	3	3	22.5	245.2	4.3	0.5	0.5	0	0	-6	6	1.5	NNW 3-15
25. Cherokee	4-Jan	31	1,076	5	2	8	170	0	0	0	1	4	5	40	1	NNW 13-26
26. Canton	28-Dec	52	5,357	16	6	38.5	370	12.75	1	0	0	0	28	43	2	S 6-17

MIDDLE THIRD																
27. Lost Nation	18-Dec	58	5,616	12	5	40.25	462	3.5	2.25	19	0	0	10	41	3	SSE 0-20
28. North Linn	28-Dec	52	3,388	8	4	24.5	312	2	2	23	0	0	20	43	4	NNE 8-17
29. Cedar Rapids	14-Dec	65	12,737	16	9	60	507	5.5	1.75	18	4	11.5	19	22	0	NNW 15-21
30. Iowa City	15-Dec	64	11,441	31	11	66.1	516	21.6	2	17	10	20.5	10	16	1	NW 6-12
31. Amana	28-Dec	47	1,424	8	3	25	65	8	5	20	0	0	25	45	5	SW 5-10
32. Buchanan County	1-Jan	48	2,945	3	3	23.25	187	4.25	1.5	8	1	2	11	3	11	SW 5-10
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	14-Dec	57	24,993	14	9	43	330	19	1	1	0	0	9	16	6	NE 10-15
34. Eldora-Union	21-Dec	45	2,630	7	2	16.5	129	4	1	10	2	7	20	25	1	N 0-5
35. Marshalltown	19-Dec	35	3,023	8	3	30	175	0	0	0	3	11	24	34	4	ENE 0-5
36. Grinnell	28-Dec	31	1,109	14	2	24	55	12	1	0	2	16	28	48	4	SSW 3-6
37. Ames	14-Dec	75	35,638	38	18	94	353.75	39	3.5	33	7	15.5	17	21	5	var. 6-18
38. Saylorville Reservoir	15-Dec	79	24,175	21	12	71.5	567	30.5	7.75	66	0	0	10	16	2	N 5-12
39. Des Moines	21-Dec	71	37,160	19	9	40	326	17	2	2.5	5	15	21	27	1	W 5-10
40. Neal Smith NWR	4-Jan	41	2,708	22	5	17.5	178	6.5	0	0	3	8	20	47	na	ESE 14-26
41. SE Webster County	28-Dec	44	3,255	13	4	15	280	3	1.5	10	2	2	30	55	1	S 5-15
42. Boone County	4-Jan	61	9,605	37	18	90.75	672	35	4	63	15	49.75	13	33	2	N 17-28
43. Jamaica	17-Dec	55	7,186	12	8	39.5	491.5	15	2	21	1	1.5	16	36	4	W 11-24
44. Sac County	4-Jan	40	3,611	5	3	19	59	4.5	3.5	1	7	22	-7	15	1	NNW 21
45. Carroll County	5-Jan	49	5,349	6	3	17	189	1.5	0	0	2	9	-2	9	0.5	NW 20-45
46. Ida County	22-Dec	44	3,553	16	8	70	289	15	1	3	2	4	-8	18	0	NNW 15-30
SOUTHERN THIRD																
47. Wapello County	20-Dec	32	1,903	3	1	5	31	1	0	0	0	0	28	32	0.25	N 28-32
48. Red Rock Reservoir	14-Dec	71	16,118	10	7	47.75	371	13	1.5	9.1	0	0	17	32	1.5	NNW 3-22
49. Rathbun Reservoir	14-Dec	70	10,698	14	5	45.5	425	3.25	3.5	38	6	6.5	23	30	3.5	N 8-15
50. Lamoni	15-Dec	63	7,534	7	5	29.5	270	14.5	1	10	1	1.5	12	27	0.5	N 4-10
51. Union County	31-Dec	65	13,823	3	3	26	329	3	2	12	0	0	7	30	5	NW 0-20
52. Taylor County	28-Dec	47	2,753	3	2	22	228	4	2	0	0	0	23	44	4	S 0-25
53. Shenandoah	14-Dec	61	4,608	8	4	33	422	1	1	9	6	6	12	26	0	NNW 3-5

TOTALS 658,964 \*includes 6 miles by boat

**Table 2a. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2013–2014**

Location	Gr W-f Go	Sn Go	Cack Go	Ca Go	Tr Sw	Wo Du	Ga	Am Wi	Am Bl Du	Ma	No Sh
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>											
1. Yellow River Forest									4	346	
2. SE Clayton County										15	
3. Dubuque			1	650						510	
4. Green Island				185						25	
5. Clinton				207			2		8	885	1
6. Princeton			2	1782	22	1	2		3	137	
7. Davenport			11	4044	3	1	8	1	3	2287	
8. Andalusia			1	952			3		1	75	
9. Muscatine			8	2333	3		1			377	
10. West Mercer County				246						12	
11. Burlington		1	26	1979	24	1				334	
12. Keokuk	1		29	1869	13		1		2	602	
Subtotals	1	1	78	14247	65	3	17	1	21	5605	1
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>											
13. Westfield				540		2				450	
14. Sioux City	98	46	86	20521				2	1	22582	
15. De Soto NWR	2	18	1	5222	14	4				20453	1
16. Omaha	21	7	54	10688	26		2			515	
Subtotals	121	71	141	36971	40	6	2	2	1	44000	1
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>											
17. NW Clayton County											
18. Decorah				1459						89	
19. Bremer County				60						5	
20. Worth County										71	
21. Mason City				5261						599	
22. Union Slough NWR											
23. Spirit Lake	1		3	4488	1				1	205	2
24. Humboldt County				595						119	
25. Cherokee											
26. Canton		60		482		1				135	
Subtotals	1	60	3	12345	1	1	0	0	1	1223	2
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>											
27. Lost Nation				6							
28. North Linn				506						3	
29. Cedar Rapids			5	2307	12		2		2	983	
30. Iowa City				4340	2					631	
31. Amana				15							
32. Buchanan County			2	39						266	
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo				11100					2	927	
34. Eldora-Union				1650	21					20	
35. Marshalltown		3		1681						142	
36. Grinnell				550						75	
37. Ames	7	cw	94	10515	2				1	608	cw
38. Saylorville Reservoir	3		32	12323	13				2	1398	
39. Des Moines	4	2	302	21779	133	1	5	3	2	6273	3
40. Neal Smith NWR											
41. SE Webster County			2	1127	149					537	
42. Boone County				40						5	
43. Jamaica			4	4684	cw	1				94	
44. Sac County				2200	18					600	
45. Carroll County				823						622	
46. Ida County				216						10	
Subtotals	14	5	441	75901	350	2	7	3	9	13194	3
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>											
47. Wapello County		cw		835	29					62	
48. Red Rock Reservoir			9	6641	11	5	1	1		2564	
49. Rathbun Reservoir			3	5427			3			1000	
50. Lamoni			1	393						66	
51. Union County			38	6400	1		1	2		1782	
52. Taylor County		cw	2	779						17	
53. Shenandoah	3	1	3	574			1		1	479	1
Subtotals	3	1	56	21049	41	5	6	3	1	5970	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>719</b>	<b>160513</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>69992</b>	<b>8</b>

No Pi	Gr Wi Te	Ca	Re	Ri Ne Du	Le Sc	Bu	Co Go	Ho Me	Co Me	Ru Du	No Bo	Gr Pa	Ri Ne Ph
													2
													2
													6
</													

**Table 2b. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2013-2014**

Location	Wi Tu	Do Cr Co	Am Wh Pe	Gr Bl He	Ba Ea	No Ha	Sh Sh Ha	Co Ha	Re Sh Ha	Re Ta Ha	Ro Le Ha
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>											
1. Yellow River Forest	188				33		2	1		22	4
2. SE Clayton County	90				104		1			44	13
3. Dubuque		1	1	2	64		2	1		42	6
4. Green Island	26				61		2	2		17	3
5. Clinton	23		1	1	500	4	2	1		50	11
6. Princeton	1			5	292	2		2		44	4
7. Davenport	41	4	55	5	1035	1	3	7	1	60	7
8. Andalusia	4				213	2		2	1	14	4
9. Muscatine	10		1	3	694	4	5	2	1	36	5
10. West Mercer County	102	1		3	413	2	3	2		24	8
11. Burlington			9	87	471	13	3	2		20	8
12. Keokuk	20		248	26	634	1		1	1	33	1
Subtotals	505	6	315	132	4514	29	23	23	4	406	74
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>											
13. Westfield	34				19	7	3			23	29
14. Sioux City	217				18	1		2		64	17
15. De Soto NWR	316				64	6	4	3		115	12
16. Omaha	105				57	3	3	4	cw	94	2
Subtotals	672	0	0	0	158	17	10	9	0	296	60
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>											
17. NW Clayton County	3				31	1	1	2		19	6
18. Decorah	49			1	65	1	3	2		42	7
19. Bremer County	13				43	4	1	1	1	24	9
20. Worth County	63				11		1			6	3
21. Mason City	243				30		1	1		21	9
22. Union Slough NWR						5				7	1
23. Spirit Lake	1			1	8	2		1		12	3
24. Humboldt County					9			1		2	2
25. Cherokee	28				14			1		16	9
26. Canton	7				13	1	2			29	17
Subtotals	407	0	0	2	224	14	9	9	1	178	66
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>											
27. Lost Nation	30				54	10	5		1	29	11
28. North Linn	23				28		1	1		22	4
29. Cedar Rapids	65			1	47		3	4		57	5
30. Iowa City	25				65	2	2	6		44	12
31. Amana	5				19	1				12	4
32. Buchanan County	7				25			1	1	12	3
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	7				16		1	1	2	16	1
34. Eldora-Union	37				19	1				10	
35. Marshalltown	20				21			4		15	
36. Grinnell	5				7	1		1		12	
37. Ames	23				21	4	7	11	1	84	1
38. Saylorville Reservoir	20			1	10	6	1	6		58	5
39. Des Moines	66			9	255		3	2		36	2
40. Neal Smith NWR	1				22	1		1		25	2
41. SE Webster County					21	1		1		11	2
42. Boone County	65				58	5	4	4		57	12
43. Jamaica	1				10	2	7	3		21	
44. Sac County	1				27		2			11	1
45. Carroll County					5	1		1		4	1
46. Ida County	9				4					34	2
Subtotals	410	0	0	11	734	35	36	47	5	570	68
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>											
47. Wapello County					54	cw				cw	
48. Red Rock Reservoir	4	2	498		256	2	1	2	1	42	7
49. Rathbun Reservoir	7			6	46	4	2	2		27	3
50. Lamoni	15				90	2	5			63	14
51. Union County	15				20	1		1	1	44	5
52. Taylor County	24				35	2				33	5
53. Shenandoah	51				16		1	2		33	1
Subtotals	116	2	498	6	517	11	9	7	3	242	35
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2110</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>813</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>6147</b>	<b>106</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>1692</b>	<b>303</b>



Go Ea	Am Co	Ki	Wi Sn	Ri Bi Gu	He Gu	Ro Pi	Eu Co Do	Mo Do	Ea Sc Ow	Gr Ho Ow	Ba Ow	Lo Ea Ow	Sh Ea Ow
3	2		2			177	16	73	6	1	1		
1						55		31	6	1	8		
						289		101		1	1		
						46		88	15	12	9	12	1
		5	1		3	226	7	269	6	16	5		
					98	134	2	260	7	8	3		
	1		1	853	274	1301	4	404	4	21	21		
				23	2	48	4	241	2	6	8		
				365	116	40	4	560	5	10	7	1	
		2	2	3		37	2	461	6	21	12	3	3
	11		1	10		173	2	286	2		2		
	120	7	4	623	655	217	10	225	12	3	1		
4	134	14	11	1975	1184	2865	47	2999	71	107	78	16	4
						70	13	10	1	2	1		
1						602	29	65	1	4	2	1	
1						229	73	5	3	5	3		
						186	18	57	1	4	cw		1
2	0	0	0	0	0	1087	133	137	6	15	6	1	1
1						38		3	8	7	7		1
2						159		14	5	4	3	3	
						163		36		1	1		
						57		2		1			
						353	3	33	1	5	1		
	9					151	5	9	4	1	1		
						6	7				1		
						54							
			2			138	35	3	4	4	1	1	
3	9	0	2	0	0	1119	50	100	22	23	15	4	1
						85		110	8	17	14		
						55	8	45	1	2	3	1	
		5				1554		189	2	5	10		
						205	21	229	1	1	2		
			2			70	20	45		10	4		
						37		96		4	2		
						787		140	2	1	1		
						26	16	1		2	2		1
						58	2	11			1		
	1					12		5		2			
						967	29	125		5	7	1	
				1		498	36	92	4	6	11		
	1					657	9	188	1	3	5		
						18	27	42		1			
						123	9	9			1		
						164	37	64	4	5	7		1
						28	3	56	1		1	4	
						11		2		1			
						8	58	32		2		1	
						100	72	2		5	1	2	
0	2	6	3	3	0	5463	347	1483	24	72	72	10	2
						264		1					
	1					83		39			2		
	1					10		45	6	1	1		
						78	11	56	2	2	2		7
	59					120			1	4	4	2	
						48		2	3	10	5		
	9					151	31	44		cw	3		
1	71	0	3	35	35	760	135	187	12	17	17	2	7
10	216	20	19	2013	1219	11294	712	4906	135	234	188	33	15

**Table 2c. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2013–2014**

Location	No S-w Ow	Be Ki	Re He Wo	Re Be Wo	Ye Be Sa	Do Wo	Ha Wo	No Fl	Pi Wo	Am Ke	Me
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>											
1. Yellow River Forest		3	8	38		39	14	3	5	2	
2. SE Clayton County		5	4	94	7	97	29	17	11	4	
3. Dubuque		6		47		61	15	4	2	4	
4. Green Island		7	7	85	8	78	33	49	4	8	
5. Clinton		4	16	86	9	135	31	34	17	19	
6. Princeton	I	10	35	71	3	85	25	10	2	20	
7. Davenport		5	30	157	4	151	33	16	14	13	
8. Andalusia			3	57	4	39	17	4	2	6	I
9. Muscatine		I	7	82	2	89	28	27	8	24	
10. West Mercer County		2	12	58	I	58	12	25	16	18	
11. Burlington		5	19	46		44	13	16	4	33	I
12. Keokuk		5	5	71	7	109	18	27	9	10	
Subtotals	I	53	146	892	45	985	268	232	94	161	2
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>											
13. Westfield		I	2	23		22	9	11		3	
14. Sioux City		I	4	38		65	17	23		6	3
15. De Soto NWR		cw	38	119	4	144	29	71	5	11	I
16. Omaha		8	160	139	I	130	30	44	4	12	4
Subtotals	0	10	204	319	5	361	85	149	9	32	8
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>											
17. NW Clayton County		2	I	59	3	100	25	10	5	I	
18. Decorah		6		97	4	74	38	16	2	2	
19. Bremer County		I	4	31		45	5	3	4	8	
20. Worth County				8		11	6	I			
21. Mason City	2	2		23		52	22	4	I	3	I
22. Union Slough NWR				3		9	3	3			
23. Spirit Lake		I		21		33	16	I			
24. Humboldt County				7	I	12	I	I		I	I
25. Cherokee			I	13		15	7	10			
26. Canton	4	I	9	15		19	4	16		3	I
Subtotals	6	13	15	277	8	370	127	65	12	18	3
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>											
27. Lost Nation		2	44	62	2	79	20	23	2	18	
28. North Linn		I	3	37		25	3	4	I	13	
29. Cedar Rapids		7	11	75	I	116	17	15	4	26	
30. Iowa City	I	7	11	86	2	122	27	32	I	21	I
31. Amana		I	7	10		10	I	7	I	3	
32. Buchanan County				15		39	12	4	I	I	I
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo	I	3		28		40	11	3	I	3	
34. Eldora-Union		2	6	26		14	5	I	I	2	
35. Marshalltown				14		25	5	3		4	
36. Grinnell				10		6	3	4		4	
37. Ames		4	I	169	2	189	80	23		9	I
38. Saylorville Reservoir	I	I	I	138	2	115	29	86	I	13	4
39. Des Moines	I	5	I	73	I	106	30	40	2	5	3
40. Neal Smith NWR			2	22		28	2	13		3	
41. SE Webster County		3	2	21		8	4	I		2	I
42. Boone County		4	12	191	I	175	77	25	4	5	
43. Jamaica		4	37	42		25	10	18		5	
44. Sac County			2	30		30	9	3			
45. Carroll County		3		8		11	4	4		I	
46. Ida County	I	4	6	19		18	I	26		I	3
Subtotals	5	51	146	1076	11	1181	350	335	19	139	14
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>											
47. Wapello County		I		11		3	4	3	I	cw	
48. Red Rock Reservoir		I	I	61	3	73	16	40		12	I
49. Rathbun Reservoir		3	13	32	I	34	6	37	I	6	
50. Lamoni		I	77	43		36	22	85	I	26	I
51. Union County		I	I	14		16	8	20		16	I
52. Taylor County		2	17	20		14	2	19		7	
53. Shenandoah		2		23		23	3	4		14	
Subtotals	0	11	109	204	4	199	61	208	3	81	3
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>620</b>	<b>2768</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>3096</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>989</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>431</b>	<b>30</b>

No Sh	sh sp	Bl Ja	Am Cr	Ho La	Bl Ca Ch	Tu Ti	Re Br Nu	Wh Br Nu	Br Cr	Ca Wr	Wi Wr	Go Cr Ki	Ru Cr Ki
I		119	192		86	12		13	2		I		
I		240	236	394	259	56		133	8		3	I	
		163	143	24	235	33		54	5	2	I		
3		253	244	62	234	30		73	33	13	2	14	I
I		321	291	138	357	44	11	135	25	15	I	29	I
I		256	118	339	242	41	2	73	33	5	I	8	
		216	250	250	497	61	I	159	62	16	4	3	
I		143	47	134	125	23		45	13	2		I	
I		189	104	388	245	68	2	95	26	10		6	
I		164	109	772	263	31	2	86	7	12	I		
		104	93	1022	119	39	I	75	7	9		9	I
		289	25000	620	274	104	4	71	11	37	I	16	I
10	0	2457	26827	4143	2936	542	23	1012	232	121	19	87	4
7		77	76	185	28			24	3			2	
3		62	64	10	104		2	55	3	2	I		
6		182	107	63	259	21	2	145	6	5		2	
		148	123	2	271	41	I	175	9	20		I	
16	0	469	370	260	662	62	5	399	21	27	I	5	0
2		162	262	505	226	23	I	189	13	I		3	
		270	471	29	271	29	6	112	12	6		3	
2		114	420	29	91			32	I				
		35	164	243	10			13					
3		127	3791	4	109		I	56	5				
I		23	188	2304	I			4					
I	I	81	65	60	94		I	37	3				
I		8	8	51	16			10					
2		53	163	5	26			6					
2		149	78	219	47			39	3				
14	I	1022	5610	3449	891	52	9	498	37	7	0	6	0
I		264	265	157	155	36	10	82	45	2		13	
I		115	291	115	97	6	2	30	3	I			
I		212	1660	64	425	41		76	23	4	2	2	
2	I	147	280	65	214	51	2	78	2	5			
		35	60	35	40	7		16	I				
		127	142	225	82	4	I	35	I			I	
2		76	7597	30	149		I	37	5				
3		38	30	2	21			19	I				
		105	129	37	43			32					
		22	68	7	20			9					
I		311	10500	81	546	3	6	222	29	8	3	I	
3		199	145	52	326	19	2	124	7	I		I	
		147	3246	22	204	21		128	4	3		I	
		53	52	116	33	2		14					
		52	99	39	43			34	I	2			
2		247	351	291	384	43	I	156	10	2			
I		100	169	3	49	2	2	46	I				
		44	33	32			9	26					
I		18	48	428	16		I	9	6				
		164	183	307	11		4	14					
18	I	2476	25348	2108	2858	235	41	1187	139	28	5	19	0
		37	29		16	11		7					
I	I	179	211	85	109	6		57		2			
2		322	176	49	113	27		41					
I		470	415	21	74	25		33	9	2			
		115	246	15	21			13	5			3	
	I	87	91	49	38			27	I			2	
		96	44	94	18			18	5	2			
4	2	1306	1212	313	389	70	0	196	20	6	0	5	0
62	4	7730	59367	10273	7736	961	78	3292	449	189	25	122	4

**Table 2d. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2013–2014**

Location	Ea Bl	He Th	Am Ro	No Mo	Eu St	Ce WVa	La Lo	Sn Bu	Ye Ru WVa	Sp To	Ea To
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>											
1. Yellow River Forest	13	1	170		376	616			1		
2. SE Clayton County	83	1	27		258	80		345			
3. Dubuque	33	1	20		700	22	cw	cw			
4. Green Island	94	3	28	2	533	263	13		49		
5. Clinton	31	7	28		2558		402	425	27		
6. Princeton	5	1	5		2172	25	16	26	1		
7. Davenport	22		187		5915	68	400	300	6		1
8. Andalusia	6	1	4		414		16		3		
9. Muscatine	63	3	24		4244	46	19	21	14		
10. West Mercer County	14	9	43		1488	12	18	1	4		
11. Burlington	27	4	37		1505	179	354		11		
12. Keokuk	133	1	105	1	1277	220	5		87		
Subtotals	524	32	678	3	21440	1531	1335	1118	203	0	1
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>											
13. Westfield	36		102		506	45			1		
14. Sioux City	1	2	44		1221	832	1000			3	
15. De Soto NWR	124	3	264		1846	81			1	6	2
16. Omaha	62		100	1	2915	189	100			1	1
Subtotals	223	5	510	1	6488	1147	1100	0	2	10	3
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>											
17. NW Clayton County	83	2	36		96	45	45	9	2		
18. Decorah	97	7	58		444	207	62	6	46		
19. Bremer County					548	89	3946	310			
20. Worth County					58		361	341			
21. Mason City			4		877	100	116				
22. Union Slough NWR					94		426	604			
23. Spirit Lake	1		5		962	6	3				
24. Humboldt County					89	1	2606	8			
25. Cherokee			13		224	86					
26. Canton	6		337		758	228	1120	21		1	
Subtotals	187	9	453	0	4150	762	8685	1299	48	1	0
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>											
27. Lost Nation	14	2			1148	68	18		6		
28. North Linn	7		6		815	14		45	1		
29. Cedar Rapids	1	1	29		883	46			1		
30. Iowa City	35	3	229		878	686		45	6		
31. Amana	22		12	1	100	10			1		
32. Buchanan County	5		1		342	10	88	84	6		
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo			5		813	52	26		1		
34. Eldora-Union			6		134	36					
35. Marshalltown	5		37		164	13					
36. Grinnell			4		120						
37. Ames	56		160		4882	245	509	26			
38. Saylorville Reservoir	140	4	319		3112	440	1133	4	41		
39. Des Moines	48		205		1114	117	140			1	
40. Neal Smith NWR	7		1		402		7		3		
41. SE Webster County			5		327	26		31			
42. Boone County	52	1	63		2161	160	119	6	4		1
43. Jamaica	33		389		486	81	50				
44. Sac County			4		9	14	10	28			
45. Carroll County			73		729	42	448	72		2	1
46. Ida County		1	341		604	29	200	2			
Subtotals	425	12	1889	1	19223	2089	2748	343	69	3	2
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>											
47. Wapello County	11		6		72	186					
48. Red Rock Reservoir	33	1	44		1592	12	60		11		
49. Rathbun Reservoir	78	3	753	1	476	465	97		3	1	
50. Lamoni	141	3	1881	1	585	677	cw		13	1	1
51. Union County	17	1	873	1	2286	181			3		
52. Taylor County	60		92		438	11	2				
53. Shenandoah		2	147		1197	36		2			
Subtotals	340	10	3796	3	6646	1568	159	2	30	2	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>7326</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>57947</b>	<b>7097</b>	<b>14027</b>	<b>2762</b>	<b>352</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>

Am Tr Sp	Fo Sp	So Sp	Sw Sp	Wh Th Sp	Ha Sp	Wh Cr Sp	Da Ey Ju	No Ca	Re Wi Bl	We Me	me sp	Ru Bl	Co Gr
502		2		5			850	72					
740	13	28	1	10		2	1419	169	720				
189	4	14	4	cw		95	419	179	1				
245	2	22	6	9		9	356	168	35			1	1
474	4	20	18	19		3	787	269	4270	1	2		1
389	4	19	9	5			906	188	69		5		
702	3	126	21	28		3	1269	455	51091			10	9005
141	1	6	1	9		7	346	166					1
416	1	16	3	10		10	826	250	6				1
304	2	44	4	5		8	688	223	3				1
299		22	2	41		3	443	304	316			1	56
94		37	2	48			850	331			2		3
4495	34	356	71	189	0	140	9159	2774	56511	1	9	12	9069
165					3		433	15				8	3
382		48			99	84	423	66	203			5	10
602	10	33	cw	21	83	37	1272	176	152		120		1
310		23	1	15	93	14	656	185	322		78		
1459	10	104	1	36	278	135	2784	442	677	0	198	13	14
532	1	8		1			603	146	1				
515		18	cw	13		1	1406	116	cw				
1101	4	4	1	2			828	157	1			1	1
501				1			205	18	40			2	
207	1			1		1	565	93	60			1	6
149							166	9	481				2
61							102	17	274			47	
20							80	5					
12		5			8		145	4	40				
63							148	16	200	9			
3161	6	35	1	18	8	2	4248	581	1097	9	0	51	9
146	2	17	5	11			326	186	1		15		20
74	2	4		3			147	59			3		2
356		10	1	35		2	1112	423	11			1	6
642	3	6	1	91		5	835	295	6		1	2	6
90		5		1		1	70	25			8		
225		1					247	88					
557	1	7	2	1			776	234	2				2
84		2					70	34	90			3	
35							113	56	1				
9				2			51	31					
482	1	15	4	57	3	11	1573	345	41	13	7	6	9
966	15	95	18	56	3	1	848	267	72	2	9	40	5
100		17	1	22	1		379	187	1				
911		2		7		7	383	92	4		5		
121		2					71	16	65				7
644	5	12	2	4	19		1412	200	48			8	
127		16					116	24	86		2	18	
24				1	5		43	67	60			1	20
144				1	2	1	54	30	6		1		
42	1				6		257	24	1				
5779	30	211	34	292	39	28	8883	2683	495	15	51	79	77
6		1		6			105	52					
234	3	7		49	5	4	531	223	267				5
159	1	1		4	1		302	96	80			3	3
342	1	8		47	12		787	100	143		21	112	
483	2	1		2			205	37	326		28		4
275		3			5	2	218	37	2		39		
383		3		2	22		396	147	5		96	2	
1882	7	24	0	110	45	6	2544	692	823	0	184	117	12
16776	87	730	107	645	370	311	27618	7172	59603	25	442	272	9181

**Table 2e. Christmas Bird Count Data, 2013–2014**

Location	Br He Co	Pu Fi	Ho Fi	Pi Si	Am Go	Ho Sp	Eu Tr Sp
<b>MISSISSIPPI RIVER</b>							
1. Yellow River Forest		17	80		51	365	
2. SE Clayton County	11	9	129		159	422	
3. Dubuque			36		117	682	
4. Green Island	43	32	70	8	62	161	
5. Clinton	4	19	108		131	1057	12
6. Princeton	350	1	42	3	86	619	115
7. Davenport	351	34	257	3	263	2361	118
8. Andalusia		10	30		109	1152	409
9. Muscatine	2	18	130	6	100	968	326
10. West Mercer County		5	30		58	869	688
11. Burlington	2		43	4	62	559	427
12. Keokuk	1	18	17		148	713	146
Subtotals	764	163	972	24	1346	9928	2241
<b>MISSOURI RIVER</b>							
13. Westfield			32		157	272	
14. Sioux City	1	100	79		242	443	
15. De Soto NWR		10	34	1	170	298	
16. Omaha		13	108		340	328	
Subtotals	1	123	253	1	909	1341	0
<b>NORTHERN THIRD</b>							
17. NW Clayton County		17	39	2	68	415	1
18. Decorah		141	95	5	211	723	
19. Bremer County	8	8	52		59	1399	
20. Worth County	1	2	28		12	370	
21. Mason City	cw	8	99		79	643	
22. Union Slough NWR						320	
23. Spirit Lake	11		27		13	1103	
24. Humboldt County					4	5	
25. Cherokee			12		16	86	
26. Canton		5	63	1	118	700	
Subtotals	20	181	415	8	580	5764	1
<b>MIDDLE THIRD</b>							
27. Lost Nation		35	7	1	36	1572	307
28. North Linn		7	9		36	700	1
29. Cedar Rapids		6	93		122	1488	22
30. Iowa City		16	73		150	658	16
31. Amana	50		5		20	400	150
32. Buchanan County	1	54	1		15	581	1
33. Cedar Falls-Waterloo		1	92	2	32	1340	
34. Eldora-Union		7	11		45	124	
35. Marshalltown			20	1	16	172	
36. Grinnell			9		37	21	
37. Ames	65	5	503	2	209	1635	
38. Saylorville Reservoir	22	7	165		149	402	
39. Des Moines		1	109		239	455	
40. Neal Smith NWR	2	9	47		57	275	
41. SE Webster County		1	5		20	250	
42. Boone County		44	90		244	1783	
43. Jamaica		17	4	1	154	123	
44. Sac County			20		49	142	
45. Carroll County		2	109		37	1475	
46. Ida County	1		45		30	748	
Subtotals	141	212	1417	7	1697	14344	497
<b>SOUTHERN THIRD</b>							
47. Wapello County					23	31	
48. Red Rock Reservoir	1		40		129	670	
49. Rathbun Reservoir	20	1	26		125	437	
50. Lamoni		4	28		82	381	
51. Union County	2		11		95	229	
52. Taylor County	50	2			19	138	
53. Shenandoah		1	15		72	282	
Subtotals	73	8	120	0	545	2168	0
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>999</b>	<b>687</b>	<b>3177</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>5077</b>	<b>33545</b>	<b>2739</b>

**Table 3. Species reported on three or fewer Christmas Bird Counts, 2013–2014**

Species	Counts
Ross's Goose	Sioux City (2)
Mute Swan	Clinton (1), Jamaica (1)
Tundra Swan	Clinton (5), Burlington (1), SE Webster County (2)
Swan sp.	Decorah (1)
Blue-winged Teal	Keokuk (1)
Greater Scaup	Keokuk (196), Spirit Lake (1), Union County (1)
Surf Scoter	Keokuk (1)
White-winged Scoter	Davenport (1)
Black Scoter	Keokuk (2)
Long-tailed Duck	Princeton (1), Keokuk (5), Red Rock (4)
Red-breasted Merganser	Princeton (2), Davenport (3), Keokuk (1)
Duck sp.	Omaha (175)
Pied-billed Grebe	Davenport (1), Keokuk (2)
Northern Goshawk	Yellow River Forest (1), Canton (1)
Accipiter sp.	Lost Nation (1), Amana (2), Saylorville (1)
Buteo sp.	De Soto NWR (1), Boone County (1)
Thayer's Gull	Davenport (1), Muscatine (2), Keokuk (3)
Lesser Black-backed Gull	Muscatine (1), Keokuk (4)
Snowy Owl	Keokuk (2), Spirit Lake (1), Shenandoah (cw)
Owl sp.	Boone County (1), Taylor County (1)
Gyr Falcon	Worth County (1)
Peregrine Falcon	Davenport (2), Burlington (2)
Prairie Falcon	Carroll County (1)
Eastern Phoebe	Green Island (1), Clinton (1), Keokuk (1)
Loggerhead Shrike	Union County (1), Shenandoah (1)
Townsend's Solitaire	Saylorville (1)
Gray Catbird	Burlington (1), Rathbun (1)
Brown Thrasher	Eldora-Union (1), Ames (1), Jamaica (4)
Chipping Sparrow	Decorah (cw)
Field Sparrow	SE Clayton County (4), Andalusia (1), Western Mercer County (3)
Vesper Sparrow	Saylorville (1)
Savannah Sparrow	Boone County (1), Lamoni (1)
Lincoln's Sparrow	Green Island (1), De Soto NWR (8), Omaha (1)
Sparrow sp.	De Soto NWR (13), Sac County (17)
Eastern Meadowlark	West Mercer County (7), Ames (1), Saylorville (1)
Yellow-headed Blackbird	Westfield (1)
Brewer's Blackbird	Westfield (2), Rathbun (2)
Red Crossbill	Lost Nation (1)
Common Redpoll	Decorah (1), Cherokee (1), Boone County (2)

# Glaucous-winged Gull in Scott County

*Tommy Stone*

On 7 December 2013 my fiancé Rose Dooley and I birded at several locales along the Mississippi River in the Quad Cities area in search of waterfowl and gulls. Stops at many of the best locales revealed good numbers of gulls and a nice diversity of rare species including Thayer's, Glaucous, and Lesser Black-backed gulls. It was now late in the day, so we decided to make one more stop. At around 3:00 P.M. we arrived at Centennial Park in downtown Davenport and walked along the shoreline until we got to the retainer wall. Much to my surprise there was a nice assortment of gulls and I returned to the car for my camera. I decided to take at least two photos of each the rare gulls, not realizing that my camera's memory card was full. After photographing a Lesser Black-backed Gull I shifted to what I thought was an adult Thayer's Gull that had landed nearby. We studied the bird at close



*Figure 1. Fourth-cycle Glaucous-winged Gull at Davenport, Scott, 7 December 2013. Photograph by Tommy Stone, Evansdale, IA.*



range with a spotting scope as it fed alone on a dead gizzard shad on the near shoreline. The bird's primaries were very dark and it matched the description of an adult Thayer's Gull in basic plumage in my field guide. I didn't notice anything at the time that was unusual about this bird. We spent 15-20 minutes looking at it and I took a few photos and kept the best two. I was hoping to get some wing shots of the primaries, but it didn't cooperate. The bird later flew a short distance and landed near two Thayer's Gulls where I again unsuccessfully tried to get more photos. Finally, we decided it was time to leave because it was getting late and we wanted to get home before dark.

It wasn't until the next day, when I enlarged the photos on my camera, that I realized that this bird had a large bill, the primaries appeared dark gray rather than black, and the wing projection looked too short for a Thayer's Gull (Figure 1). I began to wonder if the bird could be a Glaucous-winged Gull. I had had no prior experience with this highly variable species so I decided to post the photos on-line and seek outside input. I eventually received an email from Aaron Brees and it was also his opinion that it was a Glaucous-winged Gull, so he forwarded the photos to a gull expert on the West Coast. Subsequent feedback confirmed that the bird was a fourth-cycle Glaucous-winged Gull!

This represents the first record of a Glaucous-winged Gull for Iowa, and one of just a handful of records for the Midwest. This Pacific Coast species rarely wanders to eastern North America and is an identification challenge because it regularly hybridizes with Western Gull. This individual showed no obvious signs of hybridization although it would be impossible to determine its genetic make-up without a specimen in hand.

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## **Correction to *Iowa Bird Life*, Volume 84, Number 1**

*Stephen J. Dinsmore*

In the article by Kent and Putney (2014, First Dates of Iowa Birds. *Iowa Bird Life* 84:1-15.) the entry for Black Rail was inadvertently deleted. The text below should have been inserted between the entries for Pine Siskin and Burrowing Owl in Table 1 on page 8.

**Black Rail:** 1889-07-11, Fort Dodge *Webster* (Anderson 1907).

# Fifty Years Ago in *Iowa Bird Life*

James J. Dinsmore

Almost half of the June 1964 issue of *Iowa Bird Life* was a lengthy report on the spring meeting in Decorah. Besides reports on the various talks presented at the meeting and several pages of photographs, the article was full of information on current activities, election of officers, and other club business. A total of 103 people were listed as attending the meeting, fairly good attendance for a meeting in a section of the state with relatively few members. A total of 134 species were found on the field trips on Sunday, and an additional 11 species were found on Saturday. In 1964, release programs for Canada Goose and Wild Turkey were just getting started in Iowa, and both species were missed on the field trips, a miss modern-day birders will find amazing. Robert Vane was elected President, succeeding Dean Roosa. The new president had a rather lengthy report listing some of his ideas for the organization. Of interest was his concern about the lack of young people in the group and a plea for members to bring a young person to the next meeting. The same plea could be made in 2014.

The field reports for spring including sightings of several Little Blue Herons, a Whimbrel, and lingering Evening Grosbeaks. Other spring sightings that were written up as short notes included a Purple Gallinule in Louisa County, a Chuck-will's-widow at Wildcat Den State Park, a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Cedar Falls, and a Lark Bunting in Wright County.

Elton Fawks reported on a mid-February count of Bald Eagles along the Mississippi River in Illinois. He found 414 eagles at locations along the river in Illinois from Dubuque to south of St. Louis and another 81 were found upstream from Dubuque. These totals stand in stark contrast to the totals from similar counts in recent years which routinely exceed 1000 eagles just along the Iowa border.

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**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES** (renewable yearly): Fledgling (students) \$15, Institutional (domestic) \$30, Institutional (foreign) \$45, Goldfinch \$30, Bluebird \$35, Oriole \$50, Egret \$75, Osprey \$100, Bald Eagle \$250, and Peregrine Falcon \$500+. Membership dues entitle members to receive *Iowa Bird Life* and *IOU News* quarterly and to vote and hold office in the Union. Contributions are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Join, give a gift, or manage your membership on-line at <[www.iowabirds.org](http://www.iowabirds.org)>. Paper forms for new members and renewals may be mailed to the treasurer. Back issues of *Iowa Bird Life* are available from Membership Coordinator Pam Allen, 7955 Wistful Vista Dr., #20, West Des Moines, IA 50266 (2birders@hickorytech.net).

**INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS:** Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other material relating to birds in Iowa should be sent by e-mail attachment in Microsoft Word to editor. Research manuscripts should include abstract, introduction, study area, methods, results, discussion, and literature cited sections and will be sent for peer review. Accepted manuscripts will be published promptly depending on space available.

**Photos and graphics:** Submit only original, unsized, and unenhanced photos in your camera's JPEG (\*.jpg) format. Photos must be 300 dpi at the size they will be printed (6-1/2" wide by 6-1/2" high for the cover and various smaller sizes inside), so setting your camera to its highest possible resolution is recommended. The editor will do any resizing and enhancing required because any previous adjustments to the photos may make them unusable. Submit photos and graphics as e-mail attachments.

E-mail all material other than seasonal reports to editor at [cootjr@iastate.edu](mailto:cootjr@iastate.edu). Deadlines for submission are **January 1 for winter issue** (Vol. xx[1]), **April 1 for spring issue** [2], **July 1 for summer issue** [3], **October 1 for fall issue** [4]. Send seasonal field reports to field reports editors by deadlines listed on inside front cover.

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**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT:** Deadline for receipt of reports is 15 January. For forms and instructions, contact Christopher J. Caster, 1813 Liberty Lane, Coralville, IA 52241 ([cjcaster@q.com](mailto:cjcaster@q.com)).

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**UPCOMING MEETINGS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION:** Spring: 16–18 May 2014, Bellevue, Nebraska (joint meeting with Nebraska Ornithologists' Union).

**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** Merlin, Webster, 1 February 2014. Photograph by Stephen J. Dinsmore, Ames, IA.

**BACK COVER PHOTO:** American Kestrel, Long Woods, Boone, 28 January 2014. Photograph by Larry Dau, Boone, IA.

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## CONTENTS

The Grinnell Connection “Parker, Jones, and Kelsey”: Early Iowa Ornithologists <i>by Thomas H. Kent and Judy A. Putney</i>	57
T. Martin Trippe: An Early Iowa Ornithologist <i>by Thomas H. Kent and Judy A. Putney</i>	59
Field Reports—Winter 2013-2014 <i>by Francis L. Moore</i>	61
Iowa Christmas Bird Count, 2013–2014 <i>by Chris Caster</i>	78
Glaucous-winged Gull in Scott County <i>by Tommy Stone</i>	94
Correction to <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> , Volume 84, Number 1 <i>by Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	95
Fifty Years Ago in <i>Iowa Bird Life</i> <i>by James J. Dinsmore</i>	96